

Wilson Reintroduces the "Social Security Fairness for the Terminally Ill Act of 2009"

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today reintroduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to eliminate the required five-month waiting period in the Social Security Disability (SSD) program for terminally ill patients.

"I first introduced this last year and am committed to continue fighting for this issue. It is unreasonable, even unethical, that people who are dying and who have been approved for SSD still have to wait five months to receive their benefits," Wilson said.

The current system stems from a law put into place to verify that the SSD recipients truly will not be able to work again.

"I am a fiscal conservative and I agree that on its face such a law might seem like a good way to check for fraud. In reality, all this law does is penalize those who can't work because they are terminally ill. They should be able to receive their benefits as soon as they are diagnosed," Wilson added.

Ohioans have died waiting for these benefits. "It's sad that people have been hurt by the system that's supposed to provide a safety net," Wilson said. "I believe it's right to waive the waiting period and ease the financial burden associated with terminal illness by allowing patients with life expectancies of six months or less to collect the Social Security Disability payments that they're entitled to."

Wilson originally introduced the bill in 2008 during the 110th Congress.